

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently amended) A method of enhancing endosperm development in a plant ~~in the absence of fertilization~~, the method comprising introducing into the plant an expression cassette containing a plant promoter operably linked to ~~the FIE polynucleotide of claim 1, wherein the polynucleotide is heterologous to the plant promoter or the plant a~~ polynucleotide that:

a. specifically hybridizes to SEQ ID NO:3 in a buffer of 40% formamide, 1M NaCl, 1% SDS at 37° C, followed by one wash for 20 minutes in 0.2X SSC at a temperature of about 50° C; and

b. enhances endosperm development in the absence of fertilization when the polynucleotide is operably linked to a plant promoter to inhibit gene expression and introduced into a plant.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence as shown in SEQ ID NO:4.

18. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the ~~heterologous FIE~~-polynucleotide is linked to the promoter in an antisense orientation.

19. (Currently amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the ~~heterologous FIE~~ polynucleotide is SEQ ID NO:3.

20. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the plant promoter is from a *FIE* gene.

21. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the expression cassette is introduced into the plant through a sexual cross.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Canceled)

24. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the polypeptide is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:4.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the polynucleotide is at least 100 nucleotides in length.

26. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the plant promoter is tissue-specific.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the plant promoter is ovule- or embryo-specific.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the polynucleotide is operably linked to the plant promoter in a sense orientation.

29. (Canceled)